G. R. S. App. F. IX-4]

Previous References.

1942-3

(War)

W File No. 159-42

Serial Nos. 11 & 12.

Later References.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. Two only.

Part B for June 1943.

SUBJECT.

A. R. P. — Blast walls.

(Mysore Cinema tragedy.)

M. Krishnan
9.6.43.

Daily News

Wednesday,—April 7, 1943

MYSORE CINEMA TRAGEDY

Two innocent persons in hot haste to get seated inside a Mysore cinema house lost their precious lives and many more were injured in the melee. It is reported that a virtual stampede for tickets forced the baffle wall to come down as a result of which this tragedy happened. We do not know why a baffle wall was erected near the booking window nor it is clear why there was so much onrush for tickets The tragedy is too poignant to recapitulate.

In spite of numerous statute sections, which control a Talkie house, such tragedies have often occurred in India and no one has taken the trouble of preventing them. If one attempts at investigation into these Talkie houses one is struck at the paucity of booking windows and especially when the picture is popular as to draw crowded houses not more than one in each class is opened to sell tickets. Furthermore when our crowds are not accustomed to 'queue system' the responsibility of the owners is great They are in duty bound to open as many booking offices as possible—of course in keeping with the available seats —to sell tickets.

Another sad feature which we greatly deplore in our Cinemas is the method of opening the booking offices just a few minutes before the show. This ought to go and tickets should be sold as mentioning the show to which they are given. More than half-a-dozen booking offices are needed for each of the lower classes. If rush is to be avoided a control on the crowd is necessary.

We emphatically urge a thorough enquiry into this Cinema tragedy with a broad-based reference so as to avoid future happenings of the kind. It is sad that two people lost their lives in the melee and consequent giving away of the baffle wall, inspite of the police vigilance. We offer our condolences to the family of the bereaved and wish a speedy recovery to the injured.

7303/42

Submitted for perusal
10/4

Chief Secretary)

9 Rooms that are there
walls which are of no use
now especially as they have
become old may be
removed

6-4-43

9.4.43

Home Secy.
Protection Branch)
W.C.
10/4.

10/4/43

This may be transferred to the War Secy. which deals
with A.R.P. papers.

13-4-43

10.4.43

Police 7305

Continuation Sheet. File No. / Current No. 159 of 42-3 Page.

From,

The Dist Magte, Mysore Dt.

Letter No C L 867/42-43 dated 8th April 1943 reporting that a baffle wall (A-R-P) in front of the ticket room of the Opera Talkies, Mysore City fell down on the 2nd instant at 11-30 P.M resulting in the death of two persons & injury to four others.

4/-

Submitted for kind perusal.

I think that orders should be passed in respect of this matter now as Press cutting submitted to the Hon Minister. Kindly put it up

10/6/43 10.6.43

The Press cutting is put up.

Kind reference is invited to the orders already passed on the Press cutting reporting this incident. The Dist Magte report is for perusal. It calls for no action in view of the orders already passed.

12/6/43 12.6.43

MRV 12/6

Chief Secy

Inspector General

Commissioner

13-6-43

Mysore Police. Dy IGP 14 13/6

To Hon'ble Minister for further action on the orders passed on the cutting placed below

MRV 15/6

15/6

9063 SECRETARY, CHIEF MINISTER 13 APR. 1943 GOVT. OF MYSORE.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FINANCE & REVENUE 13 APR. 1943 No 8787

The policy on Civil defence has recently been revised and the Govt of India at the Conference held at the Ry. on 5th April 43.

As regards Civil Defence it is seen from the minutes that the Mil Engineer has been asked to consult Railway Supervising Officers regarding removal of bottle walls. Perhaps the calling may be left to the Govt for Necessary action as a result of the decision arrived at the Conference of the Railway

In any case the Govt should have nothing to do in the matter as the work of bricking up would be done by the Railway. The Railway may be asked to do the necessary action for removal of bottle walls.

Like this

9250 16 APR 19 GOVT OF MYSORE

(RS) 16/4

I agree WP 22/4/43

Min. Edn) WP 22/4/43

WP 24/4/43

Form of Notification
Date 22/4
No. 192

H.O. No. 91/W.
d. 24-4-1943

Forwarded with compliments to the Inspector General of Police in response to for personal and necessary action and the return of the file.

for Chief Secretary to Govt

WD 1140—GPB—50,000—5-11-42

3122/W. 5-346 PW

Removal of Bapparmats.

Continuation Sheet. W File No. Current No. 159 of 42-3. Page.

12.

A.R.P. Dte to GS(S) forwarding copy of letter to P.W. Secy re removal of bapparmats

Submd. for perusal. The P.W. Secy may perhaps be consulted on the action taken on the D.Os. D's-letter of 7-4-43

5a
3/5/43.

Yr Dy Secy

Principal P.W.D.
Wh

P. W. SECRETARIAT
5346
Date 4/5/43

In C.R.R
Rs 415
Gy 4/5
4/57

It has been ordered in Rwno 3320-23 dated 9.4.43 that the A.R.P blast walls on all Govt buildings be removed and the released materials used on other works

A copy of the order is enclosed.

Asst Secy
War Section
Cy C

Gy 6/5
Rs 5/5
6/5

for SW

✓
B

W 159-42-11. 2309

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
MYSORE DISTRICT

No.G1.867/42-3.
Enc.one.

DATED, Mysore the 8th April 1943.

2990 W

From

C.M.H.RANAJODHA SINGH, Esq., B.A.,
District Magistrate, Mysore District,
Mysore.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government of Mysore, Bangalore.

CHIEF SECRETARY
10 APR. 1943
GOVT. OF MYSORE.

Sir,

Subject:- Accident at the New Opera Talkies, Mysore.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of report G.L.No.1769/42-3 dated 6th inst. received from the District Superintendent of Police, Mysore, on the above subject; and to state that out of the six persons who were injured and admitted into the Krishnarajendra Hospital, Mysore, Basava s/o of Basaviah, 28 years, Bestar, Rave Beedi, Mysore is reported to have died in the Hospital on 4th April 1943 and the other injured persons who are in-patients in the hospital are reported to be improving.

I have the honour to be,
Sir
Your most obedient servant,

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
MYSORE DISTRICT.

ASLN

Copy of the Special Report from the District Superintendent of Police Mysore District, Mysore, dated 8th April 1943.

On 2-4-42 at about 11-30 P.M. the Manager, Mr.S.Subba Rao of Opera Talkies, Mysore City phones to the station that the baffle wall in front of the Ticket Room of the Talkies fell down on account of the rush of people buying tickets and as a result one person died on the spot and some injured.

On this information proceeded to the spot with the station staff and noticed that one person dead and several persons injured. The injured persons sent to the K.R.Hospital with Duffedar 4 U.Dyavarasegowda and 2 P.Cs.

On recording the statement of the Manager, a case under 'death' in Cr.No.103/42-3 was registered and investigation under section 174 Cr.P.C was conducted on the dead body of Puttaswamy.

In the investigation it is disclosed that the deceased was a coolie in K.R.Mills and is the son of Basaviah, aged 22 years, Vokkaligar, Erangere, Laskar Mohalla, Mysore.

The victim had come to attend the picture "ಮನೋನ್ಮಣಿ" with sepoy No.4313 Rame gowda of III Bn, Mysore Infantry, Mysore and as there was rush he was waiting on the other side of the wall - At 11-30 P.M. the A.R.P.Wall fell down hitting right on his head causing fatal injuries which resulted in his immediate death.

The persons sent to the Hospital are admitted to the hospital and it is learnt that two persons have received major injuries.

Of the seven persons admitted one Srinivasiah, the student of IV Form, Marimallappa's High School was sent away yesterday night only since he had received a minor injury. The other six persons Viz. Narasimhaiyengar, Doolish, Rajagopal, Basava, Narasimhaiah and Madiah, are undergoing treatment in the K.R.Hospital as in-patients.

From the statements of these seven injured persons it is discovered that the injuries sustained by them was due to the accidental fall of A.R.P. Baffle ~~wall~~ Brick wall on them owing to the rush at the Ticket window.

This unhappy incident occured as there was heavy rush near the Ticket window owing to the change of programme in the picture 'Manonmani' which is popular picture.

There was heavy rush of people for purchasing 0-4-0 and 0-2-0 tickets at the window in front of the above wall as there was only one window at which the Tickets were being sold. The purchasers used to keep one leg on coil of the ticket window and rest the other leg over the wall and put preasure over the wall and it fell down as a result of this preasure and persons injured. The deceased received fatal injury over his head as the broken wall fell over his head.

No.G.C.T.C.1769/42-3 dated the 6th April 1943 from the District Supt. of police, Mysore.

Copy of the above is submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, Mysore for favour of information. The cinema propietor will be asked to get the other A.R.P.works tested where people congegate and to arange to relieve conjustion at ticket windows.

COPY

M. Narasimhaiah

FOR DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
MYSORE DISTRICT.

8p

W 159-42-12. 3122/W.

Telegram : " POLICE."
Telephone : 2108.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE IN MYSORE,

No. ARP. 915/42-43
Encl. One only.

Bangalore, dated 30th April *1943.*

FROM

The Inspector-General of Police in Mysore,
Bangalore.

To

The Chief Secretary
to the Government of His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore, Bangalore.

SIR

Subject:- REMOVAL OF BAFFLE WALLS.

In returning herewith the file No.91/W dated 24-4-1943, sent to me, unofficially, for my perusal and necessary action, I have the honour to forward a copy of my letter No. A.R.P.915/42-43 dated 1-4-1943 addressed to the Secretary to Government, P.W.D., and to state that the baffle walls may be removed and built according to the Government of India specifications, should the threat recur.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.

U.O. Letter No.A.R.P.915/42-43 dated 1-4-43, from the Inspector General of Police in Mysore, Bangalore, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Bangalore.

REMOVAL OF BAFFLE WALLS.

With reference to your letter Nos.6886 and 6892/1 dated 24-3-43, regarding the above subject, I have the honour to state that the baffle walls constructed in the Military area, Hebbal, as also those constructed in the Maharaja's and Intermediate Colleges at Mysore, may be removed.

If the threat should recur, baffle walls may be built again according to the Government of India specifications.

COPY.

A.R.P. Officer, Bangalore City.

Letter No.P.W.7320-23 dated 9th April 1943, from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Bangalore, to the Chief Engineer of Mysore, Bangalore.

A.R.P. Blast Walls.

With reference to correspondence ending with your U.O.No.18186 dated 31st March 1943, I am directed to convey approval of Government to the removal of A.R.P. Blast Walls on all Government buildings and to the released materials being used on other works.

" Copy "

7/5/43

For Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

TSRN.